

PREDICTIONS FOR 1993

Four Bright Journalists Forecast the Future.

GATH PLEADS FOR FEDERALISM.

Nym Crinkle Estimates the Probable Progress of Literature and the Drama—Denver Will Be as Big as New York—Views of John Swinton and Kate Field on Various Subjects.

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The federalist founders of the republic of the United States, Jay, Hamilton and Washington, as interpreted by Marshall, Kent, Quincy Adams, Seward and Lincoln, are felt in our day through the decrepit or chaotic provincial states as the spinal life and brain of our system.

These opponents pass more and more to the rear as demagogues and confidence men as the superiority of our federal institutions and spirit are seen by the rising generations.

In proportion as the subsidiary states share this federal or national instinct do they rise to the success of the nation.

I apprehend that it will take another convulsion, and that probably not an extensive one—perhaps a foreign war—to permanently settle the supremacy of the nation in every uncriminal mind.

The weakness of the federal government now is due to the states who contribute to it their representative caiffiffs as senators, justices and even presidents.

The last message of the governor of South Carolina, the most wayward of all our early provinces, shows the failure of an obstreperous state sovereignty in the refusal of the people, though they disobey the federal laws of suffrage, to pay their taxes, maintain their public schools, uphold their one university—the first one where free trade, rebellion and secession were taught—or subdue their factional and social animosities. Good citizens of such a state must inevitably turn toward the cordial and helpful federalism at Washington, and so, I think, when we have a less mercenary newspaper press and can for less income tell more truth, the poorer and raggeder states will come in like the prodigal son and say, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, make me one of thy hired servants."

The necessities of dull states, the good sense of great states, all bear toward raising and respecting the one federal fatherhood which taxes while we sleep, so that we do not feel the rib taken from our body, and applies that subtraction to delightful taste and intercourse.

Out of the one public estate have come all these railways, school sections, new and great cities, irrigating works, mines, etc. Where the federal works are expensive the state politicians make them so. Who would not rather trust the United States engineers than a state legislature, either for wisdom or virtue?

The faith heretofore lacking in the supreme legislature through local and press demagoguery will, when restored, make honor at Washington the public standard.

Liberty has descended to us through timorous and excitable men like Jefferson, as a stockade surrounded by Indians. Liberty ought to be not the suspicion of mutual egotists, but the beautiful respect and harmony between man and his family.

The unequal civilization of the parts of our country, the assembling as tribes instead of fellow countrymen, the law of life and property in one part, the law of spasm and force in another part, the long results of slavery and nonpayment of taxes, must and will yield.

Excessive wealth ought to be taxed in its full proportion, not more, for remove the stimulus of wealth and at present America is nothing.

The church has become nonentity, except as a dead-pull back on bold and noble thinking. Literature, until the other day had no care from the lawmaking power. Science is doing well, but is taking fat tolls from its generation. Would not a better interpretation of government than ours have bought the telephone at the outset for a million dollars instead of taxing every customer in two generations fifty dollars a year?

Europe is influencing us greatly, and that will last long and probably for our good. What could we learn from North Carolina or Indiana that would be better than European intercourse?

We must nourish our peasantry, including the 8,000,000 of our blacks, for an empire without servants might almost be without homes or utensils. What have these wretched states done to discipline the poor in the mechanic and household arts?

The farmers are without public spirit or they would have better roads and conveniences. From the cities and the villa seats are to come the immediate helps to progress.

Individual life needs more liberty than dogma and fashion will accord. He who confiscates my Sunday to serve his superstition tyrannizes over one-seventh of my life.

When we become free indeed it will not cost us so much to live, for fashion and church thrive upon our acquiescent slavery. The home, too, should be free, the civil and not the clerical power should do all the marrying; these broken homes are often the result of the mercenary and secret priest marrying the dissolute, the half grown and the runaway to each other.

Temperance and legislation have little to do with each other. Liquors ought to be inspected and adulterating brewers to wear stripes.

Woman's great triumph, and man's, too, will be not to need the ballot often; she ballots alone and uninfluenced for a man. Perhaps the old maids might be given the Australian ballot to widen the understanding of it.

Private societies usurping the law's functions in the name of morals are Spanish inquisitions and too often directed by men of hideously perverted animality.

The United States—not the Texas contrived interstate commission—ought to be a strong power in our railways and to own the telegraphs. The world is interested in our becoming not a Christian so much as a humane and scientific empire, with one hand secured upon the people's will and the other free to labor for their lasting welfare.

I hope the most honored American in 1993 will be George Washington.

GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.

Kate Field's Forecast.

What American now living will be most honored in 1993?

Grover Cleveland, if he fulfills the expectation of his best friends. Never were the problems confronting this republic so great and so many as those which the next president of the United States must meet and answer. On these answers depends our sal-

vation for many a year to come; hence the necessity of a great and enlightened patriot in the White House, and hence such a verdict as I predict should Grover Cleveland prove himself to be the George Washington and Abraham Lincoln of this generation.

Where will be our greatest city?

In all probability Chicago. There will be wonderful cities in the west, none more beautiful and extensive than Salt Lake City; but unless all signs fail Chicago will take precedence.

Will the race be happier, healthier and handsomer than now?

All depends on our women. If they marry for love and not for convenience; if they cultivate the inside of their heads as sedulously as they now study fashion; if they "go in" for sound bodies such as nature intended the mothers of the human race to possess; if they teach their children self respect and respect for authority, Americans of 1993 will regard their ancestors of 1893 as little less than vulgar, ignorant heathens.

What is the future of the servant problem?

Again, all depends on women. When they know their own business and learn the meaning of Christianity there will be no servant problem.

In dress?

Once more the question must be settled by women. Should American women do their own thinking in the next hundred years they will not import their fashions, and they will wear nothing that interferes with a magnificent physical development. Trains will be reserved for the house; corsets and high heels will be sent to Coventry; the waist line will be just below the bosom, and Atlanta will live again.

Is the condition of the laboring class likely to become more or less dependent?

There has been a steady improvement in the condition of what is falsely called the "laboring class," as though no one worked except the manual laborer. I only hope that the brain worker will be as well paid in 1993 as will be the manual laborer, who is fast controlling the rates of this republic and reducing human capacity to a dead level of mediocrity. All men should be born free, but all men are not born equal, trades unions to the contrary. There always have been, as there always will be, leaders.

In temperance legislation?

So called temperance legislation is a temporary aberration of well meaning but narrow minded men and women with whom sentimentality supplants reason, and who actually think morals are an affair of legislation. One hundred years hence personal liberty will be more than a phrase. When it is a fact sumptuary laws will be as impossible as witch burning is now.

KATE FIELD.

Nym Crinkle on Literature and the Drama.

What will be the condition of literature and drama 100 years hence?

To keep the answer to this question out of the category of mere guesses on the one hand and save it from the imputation of rash prediction on the other, it must be deduced from the indications of the present.

There is a feverish energy in every department of intellectual life just now that is symptomatic. Every person of fairly good education and of restless mind writes a book. As a rule, it is a superficial book, but it swells the bulk and it indicates the cerebral unrest that is trying to express itself. We have arrived at a condition in which more books are printed than the world can read. This is true not only of books that are not worth reading, but it is true of the books that are.

All this I take to be the result of an intellectual enfranchisement that is new, and of a dissemination of knowledge instead of a concentration of culture. Everybody wants to say something. But it is slowly growing upon the world that everybody has not got something to say.

Therefore one may even at this moment detect the causes which will produce reaction. In 100 years there will not be so many books printed, but there will be more said. That seems to me to be inevitable. It is certainly in the direction of intellectual development, which implies that man reaches a condition individually and socially, if he progresses at all, in which he cares less about talking than about doing.

But, taking the whole bulk of current literature, good, bad and indifferent, and acknowledging that as a mass it is more active than profound, there is nevertheless an observable tendency in it—it is measurably moving toward a somewhat!

If we can get the direction and the ratio we may reasonably measure its progress during the next century.

Now what is that tendency?

I do not see how any one can diligently investigate the material without perceiving that its slow advance is toward a better humanity, a closer fraternity, a broader charity. These signs are unmistakable even in its lighter veins of cynicism and persiflage.

Nine-tenths of all the imaginative writers are jibing at the wrongs of society. The other tenth are jibing at the political shortcomings. Of course they have ideals, against which they adjust the real. Some of these ideals are made of moonbeams; some are wildly impracticable; others are fantasies on Plato's notion or travesties of More's dream. But the incentive is a restless sense of imperfection and a growing consciousness of a central sun somewhere in the moral and intellectual universe which is pulling all things to it. When this is not a distinctly theistic feeling, it is a vague philosophic counterpart of it.

So far as this is a gain in unity and reasonableness, it is a permanent gain. I can conceive of no political or social disaster that will destroy it.

The philosopher who undertakes to survey this ground needs not be an extreme optimist to see that there is a distinct ethical gain in the aggregate of intellectual work. When it does not lead it reflects, in broken and uncertain gleams, the spirit of the age, and that spirit stands for a better solidarity and a nobler destiny for man.

Under all the factors that must influence the intellectual future, broader and deeper than any of them lies education. If you want to find out what the future man will say you will have to ask, What will he know?

At this moment the whole educational energy of the country is centering itself on the want of an ethical basis of instruction. It is not alone the Catholic church that objects to the system which makes smart men instead of good men. Some of the wisest of Protestant teachers have conceded that our public school system is fatally deficient in the elemental teaching which develops the moral sense and makes honest citizens.

This protest, I take it, is another form of the reaction against the intense materialism of the time. But it is also a sign of intellectual development. No one who studies it can doubt that the education of our youth during the next fifty years will be in a measure freed from the mathematical restrictions of the present courses.

If we now recognize the fact that labor everywhere is insisting that more time to study and rest shall be taken from toil, and add this to the fact that the studies promise to improve in the direction of ethics, I do not see how we can avoid the conclusion that, barring some great and incalculable catastrophe that would throw mankind

backward a hundred years, the coming intellectual workers will be less superficial, more thoroughly equipped for their work, of larger views and broader catholic spirit, with less creed in their religion and more of God and humanity. The encyclopedic man, who makes a show of knowing all things, will give way to the specialist, who makes an effort to know one thing and know it well.

The newspaper which has made a bold incursion into current literature has with the stimulus of competition overdone the matter, and there is already a tendency to go to the review for expressions of opinion. We hear continually of the demoralization of the press, which means the popularization of the newspaper at the expense of conviction. There is going to be a reaction in that field. There ought to be, and there undoubtedly will be in New York or some other commercial and intellectual American center, a press which will express the convictions of the wisest minds in all departments of thought, irrespective of what a party or a corporation or an advertiser wants.

Such a paper whose opinions cannot be bought, whose convictions cannot be frightened and whose good will cannot be cajoled will bring the power of the press up to the traditional standard, and its opinion will command the attention of the world. It is American just now to want the news. As the facilities for gathering it and disseminating it increase, the intelligent public will want something else. They will reflect as well as apprehend.

They will have more leisure to think. The present rate of headlong material activity cannot be kept up for another hundred years. Already a new class is multiplying, which is reaping the leisure that its fathers made possible with drudgery and heart failure. The continent is all explored and nearly all surveyed. There will scarcely be another Pike's peak fever. While I am writing this the statesmen of the country are asking themselves if it is not time to make laws which shall restrict if they do not put a stop to immigration.

In 100 years Denver will be as big as New York and in the center of a vast population. If the republic remains politically compact and doesn't fall apart at the Mississippi river, Canada will be either part of it or an independent sovereignty, and the northern shore of the Gulf of Mexico will be the Riviera of the western continent.

It is not possible to estimate the perpetuity and progress of the United States without feeling that its political majesty and its beneficent freedom will react upon the intellectual expression of the people. The solidarity, the general happiness of the nation, will find an outcome in nobler works of art and science.

In that hundred years we will have matured our poet and found our Moliere or our Shakespeare.

The gestation of genius is by centuries.

Of course I do not suppose that the incoming century will bring the millennium. We all know that progress often depends on disaster as character depends on suffering and no one can tell what upheavals are in store for us. History, on the whole, is very sad reading, and it is the lesson not of uninterrupted material prosperity, but of rise, decline and fall.

But in our present rate of progress is much hope and some calculable signs. In 100 years the public will desire better reading, because it must reach a better plane of thinking. The germs of great universities will have matured their fruit by that time. The world will be in closer touch. Mercy will march with war and arbitration precede it. Somewhere the nation will have an intellectual capital with a national library and a national theater. It will have developed an art school of its own.

The ideal man and woman will have an opportunity to use all plastic arts, and will speak to us in literature and drama. The homes of the country will have been quadrupled, and it is the home that fixes the status of the theater. As we increase the enjoyments of the family circle we lessen the attraction of the cheap public entertainments, which depend upon the hotels and the floating population.

We can see even now that sectarian barriers are crumbling. Men are climbing over the ecclesiastical fences to get nearer to each other, and they have found that as they come together they approach the eternal reason.

In a hundred years man will have learned the lesson of trusting his brother, and the nation which has drawn all peoples to it with a cosmic gravitation and lifted them with freedom and confidence will also have destroyed the prejudices of race and the animosities of sect.

Such a view presents the new solidarity of fraternity, but it is the old lesson which that first democrat dauntlessly proclaimed on Mars' hill.

A. C. WHEELER (Nym Crinkle).

John Swinton's Views.

When the old saw grinder said that "We can judge of the future only by the past" and predicted that "The things which will be are the things which have been," I replied to him in the Hebrew language with the word "Amen!"

Well, then, suppose that the wisecracks of the Fifteenth century while hanging up these maxims had judged of the future Sixteenth century by the past Fourteenth century, and concluded that the one must be even as the other had been, it would now be evident to us of this time that they did not foresee the consequences of the discovery of America, or of Gutenberg's invention, or of Luther's antipapal mutiny, or of the doom of Islam, or of the Renaissance.

So, again, if the wisecracks who lived at the opening of last century, when Louis XIV was king of France and William III was the sovereign of the British American colonies, believed that their century would leave things as they found them, it would now be evident to us who live at this time that they had not forecast the events of 1776 in this country, or those of 1793 in France, or many others that were on record before the year 1800.

And so yet again it may be taken for granted that the wisecracks who worked the old saw at the opening of our own Nineteenth century, while judging the future by the past, did not have any prevision of the transformations to be brought about during the century in South America, Asia and Africa, or even in such European countries as Germany and Italy.

I cannot foretell the course or the operations of the whirligig of time during the next hundred years. I am disposed to surmise that the historian who in 1993 makes record thereof will have to get up a big book.

I guess that there will be great political and social changes in our country before the year 1993, and that these changes will be advantageous to the community at large. I guess that before the next century shall end the functions and powers of our government will be greatly enlarged; that railroads, telegraphs and many other things now held as private spoil will be public property; that law, medicine and theology will be more reasonable than they now are; that the inventions and discoveries will be greater than we have ever yet had, and that the welfare of mankind will be higher than it is in this age of confusion.

JOHN SWANTON.